



# NEWS

## Four Corners Air Quality Task Force



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Four Corners Air Quality Task Force to Meet Again in Farmington; Presentations on Implementation Efforts and Agency Priorities to be Featured**

**Farmington, New Mexico** – Members of the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force are slated to meet again on August 20 at San Juan College to review progress in implementing established air quality priorities and a variety of other efforts either currently underway or planned. The meeting will be from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Room 7103 of the Computer Science building at the college and is open to the public.

The Task Force, originally convened in 2005, is a broadly representative group that includes federal land managers, federal and state environmental regulators, representatives from industry and tribal nations, and interested residents. Spearheaded by the states of New Mexico and Colorado, the task force initially set out to discuss the impacts that oil and gas production, existing and planned coal-fired power plants, growth and other factors are having on air quality in the region.

The Task Force concluded a two-year effort in November 2007 with the finalization of a comprehensive report devoted to a broad list of options for improving air quality in the region. The report was intended to serve as a resource for, among other things, the regulatory agencies charged with developing plans for managing air quality impacts.

“Our upcoming meeting will be devoted largely to updating everyone about progress in implementing the priorities that were established by the agencies as a result of the Task Force,” said Mary Uhl, bureau chief for the Air Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department. “Several of our industry members also will be presenting about their implementation efforts since the Task Force adjourned its final meeting last November, including emissions reduction activities.”

The official business of the Task Force concluded at the November 2007 meeting with the publication of the report. However, the Task Force always intended to reconvene periodically to check on progress. A future meeting already has been planned for February 2009 in Durango, Colorado, to provide additional progress updates and discuss air quality modeling results.

“A high level of interest remains in air quality in the Four Corners region and the work of the Task Force,” said Michael Silverstein, deputy director of the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division. “We are excited about the progress we’ve already made, and are looking forward to updating everyone on what we’ve accomplished. We have a responsibility to keep everyone informed and engaged. The periodic meetings like the one in Farmington help us to do that.”

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At the Farmington meeting, the Task Force is expected to be renamed the Four Corners Air Quality Group to more accurately reflect its current task and the completion of the initial task – publication of the comprehensive report.

In addition to the meeting, a field trip is planned for the morning of August 21 to PNM's San Juan Generating Station, located about 15 miles northwest of Farmington, to learn about environmental upgrades at two of the four coal-fired units at the power plant. Those interested in participating in the field trip should contact Mark Jones of the New Mexico Environment Department at 505-327-6854 or [mark.jones@state.nm.us](mailto:mark.jones@state.nm.us).

The final report is available for viewing at [www.4cornersair.org](http://www.4cornersair.org). Individuals wanting to learn more about the Task Force/Group should contact either Jones (New Mexico residents) or Christopher Dann (Colorado residents) at 303-692-3281 or [christopher.dann@state.co.us](mailto:christopher.dann@state.co.us). Information also may be obtained by visiting the website.